

JOINT DECLARATION
"Clean Cooking in Latin America and the Caribbean"

LV MEETING OF MINISTERS OF THE LATIN AMERICAN ENERGY ORGANIZATION

Santiago, Chile – October 3, 2025

The Ministers of Energy of Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Uruguay, Venezuela gathered in the city of Santiago, Republic of Chile, on October 3, 2025.

CONSIDERING

1- The mandate outlined in the Lima Agreement to promote among OLADE Member States: technical cooperation; the exchange and dissemination of scientific, legal and contractual information; the development and dissemination of technologies in energy-related activities; and the adoption of effective measures to prevent environmental pollution from the exploitation, transportation, storage and use of energy resources within the region.

2- Strategic Pillar 4: Security, "Energy Access and Equity" and Strategic Pillar 5: "Energy Transitions, Carbon Neutrality, Innovation, Technological Changes and New Energies" of the Triennial Plan in force for OLADE's current administration, focused respectively on: perfecting and broadening the scope of actions aimed at supporting Member Countries in improving the conditions of access and security of energy supply under socially, technically and economically convenient conditions, taking into account national circumstances and realities; and facing the social challenges of energy transitions through an inclusive transformation of the energy sector with a view to moving towards a more environmentally sustainable energy model, by achieving a real contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

3- The political will expressed at the LIII Meeting of Ministers of OLADE, through the Declaration of Montevideo of November 9, 2023, regarding the importance of: enhancing the process of fair, sustainable and inclusive energy transitions; promoting the development of cleaner and more resilient energy infrastructures and technologies, which facilitate compliance with the commitments assumed by OLADE Member States in the framework of the Paris Agreement, with emphasis on the implementation and updating of the NDCs; and, giving priority to the implementation of a gender strategy in the energy sector in Latin America and the Caribbean, which allows overcoming the current barriers that women face in terms of access to modern and clean energy sources.

4- The commitments made by OLADE Member States, as part of the achievement of Goals 1, 7, 12 and 13 of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development "No Poverty", "Affordable and Clean Energy", "Responsible Consumption and Production" and "Climate Action" and their targets: 1.4 guarantee that all people, in particular the most vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services and new technologies, 7. 1 guarantee universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services by 2030; 12.8 guarantee that people everywhere have the information and knowledge relevant to sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature; and 13.3 improve education, awareness, and human and institutional capacity with respect to climate change mitigation, adaptation, mitigation and early warning.

5- The validity of the Paris Agreement, signed by all OLADE Member States, an instrument which, as an international treaty in force since November 4, 2016, implies commitments from all its parties regarding emissions reductions and provides a roadmap for climate actions that will reduce emissions and increase climate resilience, signaling the shift towards a world with net zero emissions, as part of the fulfillment of achieving climate neutrality by 2050.

6- The lack of access to clean cooking, which currently affects more than 2 billion people worldwide¹, of which 78 million live in Latin America² and the Caribbean, who, when using charcoal or firewood as fuel, inhale smoke and harmful toxic gases, with serious health consequences, which has become one of the main causes of premature death in children and mainly in women from low-income families who spend many hours a day collecting firewood and cooking with rudimentary and highly polluting fuels, limiting their access to education, employment and economic independence.

7- The negative environmental impact generated by deforestation, ecosystem degradation and pollution due to the emission of greenhouse gases associated with the burning of charcoal and firewood and its corresponding impact on the acceleration of climate change; and the strong impact of the progressive elimination of charcoal and firewood use in food cooking, on the achievement of the objectives and compliance with the global targets set for 2050 in terms of energy transitions and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

8- The specific commitments adopted at the country level and the initiatives planned at the global level to progressively reduce the use of firewood and charcoal for cooking by promoting the use of efficient cookstoves and fuels that are less polluting and less harmful to human health and the environment.

DECLARE:

FIRST. - TO EXPRESS their commitment to undertake efforts and work together to contribute to progressively reduce the use of charcoal and firewood cooking devices, until reaching, by 2035, a regional target of at least 95 % of the region's population with access to clean cooking, based on the design and implementation of policies, plans, programs and projects to replace charcoal and wood stoves with improved cookstoves (ICS), LPG, biogas or bioethanol stoves or electric cookstoves, depending on the availability of resources, technologies and infrastructure.

SECOND. - TO SUPPORT actively all actions that promote the strengthening of policies and regulations that establish incentives to progressively increase access to clean cooking, and to work towards the establishment of national targets, within the framework of the commitments made by OLADE Member States, for the achievement of SDGs 1, 7, 12 and 13, and their targets 1.4, 7.1, 12.8 and 13.3. and others related and associated with the actions necessary to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services by 2030.

¹International Energy Agency, Access to a Clean Cooking <https://www-iea-org.translate.goog/reports/sdg7-data-and-projections/access-to-clean-cooking? x tr sl=en& x tr tl=es& x tr hl=es& x tr pto=tc>

² OLADE's elaboration based on statistical and prospective evaluation.

THIRD. - TO ASSUME that the transition towards ³sustainable clean cooking, in addition to the necessary investment to ensure the replacement of appliances and technologies, as well as the permanent provision of alternative fuels, also implies an impact on ancestral cultural models based on the use of charcoal and firewood for cooking food in a significant part of the rural and peri-urban residential sector in Latin America and the Caribbean; and TO REAFFIRM the importance of carrying out user awareness campaigns aimed at generating cultural changes in cooking, including financing for the initial costs associated with changing cookstoves, facilities for safe and continuous access to less polluting modern fuels, training for the proper use and maintenance of new cooking appliances, and the benefits of clean cooking for health, the economy and the environment.

FOURTH. - TO RECOGNIZE that the use of firewood as a transition fuel during the progressive process of decreasing the use of charcoal and firewood cooking devices, foreseen until 2030, can guarantee higher levels of combustion efficiency, due to its low moisture content, and lower emissions of polluting particles.

FIFTH. - TO SUPPORT the inclusion of a gender perspective in the transition process towards clean cooking, valuing the role of women in the paradigm shift required for the sustainable adoption of the new customs involved in the phase-out of cookstoves; and recognizing that the majority of the population affected by respiratory diseases caused by the use of charcoal and firewood in cooking is made up of women.

SIXTH. - TO PROMOTE the definition of strategies and initiatives to address capacity building aimed at achieving the labor reinsertion of the productive force currently linked to the charcoal and firewood trade, within the framework of a people-centered just transition.

SEVENTH. - TO INSTRUCT OLADE to play a role in the identification, analysis and dissemination of lessons learned and best practices in clean cooking, as well as in the establishment of effective mechanisms for data collection and updating of the repository, which will allow the monitoring and evaluation of the established regional target.

EIGHTH. - TO SUPPORT the specific commitments assumed and the initiatives implemented by a growing number of OLADE Member States that have undertaken actions to reduce and/or progressively eliminate the use of charcoal and firewood as fuel for cooking, as part of their compliance with the greenhouse gas reductions foreseen in their Nationally Determined Contributions.

NINTH. - TO INSTRUCT OLADE to identify, analyze and share among its Member States, lessons learned, good practices and technology transfer, in terms of strategies, policies, plans, programs, projects and initiatives implemented in Latin America and the Caribbean aimed at increasing the population's access to clean cooking options, in which the corresponding socioeconomic and cultural impacts of these actions have been effectively managed; and to develop a diagnosis that provides statistics and indicators on the use of charcoal and firewood for cooking, including an estimate of the financial resources needed for the incorporation of infrastructure, appliances, technology, training and cleaner fuels.

³ <https://www.iea.org/articles/defining-energy-access-2020-methodology> According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), "clean cooking" refers to cooking systems that use fuels and technologies that significantly reduce harmful emissions of indoor and outdoor air pollutants, improving human health and the environment. This involves transitioning from traditional cooking methods, such as using firewood and charcoal on open stoves, to cleaner and more efficient options.

TENTH. - TO RECOGNIZE that each OLADE Member State, in the exercise of its sovereignty and according to its economic and political reality, designs and implements its policies, strategies, plans, programs and initiatives on clean cooking, in correspondence with its: circumstances, perspectives, interests, national priorities, cultural models of its population, assumed international commitments and agreements, levels of development, endowment and availability of energy, technological, financial, budgetary and infrastructure resources, among other legal, regulatory, economic, institutional circumstances and conditions of access to energy sources, capital, financing; guaranteeing the progressive increase of the population with access to clean cooking options.